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PERSPECTIVE

Be careful who you trust, even salt looks like sugar.

Ajmal accuses Assam government of divisive politics, urges focus on humanity

BARPETA

All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) president Badruddin Ajmal on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led Assam government, accusing it of fostering religious divisions and urging political leaders to prioritise humanity over communal politics.

Speaking during a visit to Barpeta district, Ajmal criticised what he described as attempts to divide people along religious lines.

“You will neither become Hindu nor Muslim; you are the children of human beings. I do not know when they will become human,” he said.

Stepping up his criticism, the AIUDF chief said those promoting divisive politics should first learn to behave like human beings.

“The people making such statements are not human; they are worse than animals. Tell them to become human first. At least stop talking about Hindu and Muslim for once,” Ajmal said.

He urged political leaders to move beyond religious polarisation and focus on issues affecting people’s lives.

Ajmal’s remarks come amid continuing political exchanges in Assam over religion, identity and community-based politics, themes that have frequently dominated the state’s political discourse.

WHO SAID WHAT



The floods have taken away the homes of many of my family members. We will rebuild every single one of them.
#AssamFloodResponse
~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM, Assam

Arms haul from Loktak Lake revives focus on phumdis as militant hideouts in Manipur

IMPHAL

A major recovery of firearms, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other warlike stores from the Loktak Lake area in Manipur’s Bishnupur district has renewed attention on the lake’s floating phumdis, which security agencies say have repeatedly been used as hideouts and weapons dumps by armed groups.

Security forces on Tuesday carried out an intelligence-based operation near Sendra Hill under Moirang Police Station and recovered a large cache of illegal arms and explosives concealed in the remote lake area.

According to Manipur Police, the seizure underscores the continued presence of illegally hidden weapons in the inaccessible stretches of Loktak Lake.

“The recovery highlights the continued presence of illegally concealed arms and explosives in remote and inaccessible locations, particularly around the phumdis of Loktak Lake, which have repeatedly been used as hideouts and dumping grounds for weapons by anti-social and armed elements,” a police statement said.

The recovered cache included a .32 pistol with a magazine, a single-barrel breech-loading (SBBL) gun, a .22 bolt-



tion rifle, a Jefferson rifle with a magazine, nine locally made carbine (CMG) firearms with magazines, two locally made MP-5-type firearms with magazines, three locally made Lathode guns, two Pompi guns, six packets of improvised explosive devices and other ammunition and accessories.

The phumdis-floating masses of vegetation, soil and organic matter unique to Loktak Lake-are home to sections of

the local fishing community, many of whom live in floating huts constructed on these biomass formations. However, their dense vegetation, shifting landscape and limited accessibility have long posed operational challenges for security forces.

Security agencies have repeatedly flagged these floating islands as vulnerable locations that can be exploited by insurgent groups to conceal arms, evade surveillance and establish temporary

hideouts.

Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in the Northeast, has featured prominently in counter-insurgency operations over the years. In 2009, security forces launched Operation Summer Storm, a large-scale offensive targeting militant hideouts believed to be operating from the lake’s floating settlements and phumdis.

The latest recovery comes amid intensified intelligence-led operations across Manipur aimed at recovering illegal weapons, explosives and ammunition following prolonged ethnic violence in the state.

Police said search operations and area domination exercises are being conducted regularly across both hill and valley districts to recover illegal arms, curb militant activity and strengthen law and order.

Investigators are now examining the origin, ownership and intended use of the seized cache while efforts continue to identify those responsible for concealing the weapons. Officials said similar operations will continue in vulnerable locations across the state as part of sustained efforts to prevent violence, dismantle illegal arms networks and restore lasting peace and normalcy in Manipur.

Silchar launches eviction drive to clear encroachments for four-lane Meherpur-Medical Road

SILCHAR

The Cachar district administration on Wednesday launched a major eviction drive along the Meherpur-Medical Road in Silchar, clearing alleged encroachments from government land to facilitate the construction of a proposed four-lane road.

The operation began early in the morning with multiple bulldozers deployed to remove shops and both permanent and temporary structures that authorities said had been illegally erected on government land.

A heavy deployment of police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel was made to maintain law and order during the eviction drive.

According to district officials, the affected stretch had remained encroached upon for several years, contributing to chronic traffic congestion and creating difficulties for commuters.

The state government has recently sanctioned funds for widening the Meherpur-Medical Road into a four-lane corridor as part of efforts to improve urban connectivity and ease vehicular movement in Silchar, officials said.

Authorities stated that eviction notices had been served to the occupants before the operation, directing them to vacate the land within the stipulated period. The drive was carried out after the notice period expired.

Many local residents welcomed the initiative, expressing hope that the road expansion project would help reduce traffic bottlenecks and improve connectivity in one of Silchar’s busiest stretches.

Officials said the clearance operation was necessary to ensure the timely execution of the infrastructure project and that the administration would continue monitoring the area to prevent fresh encroachments.

JP Nadda assures full Central support for Assam flood relief during visit



GUWAHATI

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Wednesday assured Assam of full support from the Centre for relief and rehabilitation in flood-affected areas, stating that there would be “no shortage” of assistance for the state as it recovers from the recent devastating floods.

Accompanied by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Nadda visited the flood-ravaged Bihubor and Nepali Khuti areas in Sivasagar district, where he interacted with affected families and reviewed the ground situation.

Addressing residents, the Union minister said the Central government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, remained committed to supporting Assam’s relief and rehabilitation efforts.

“On behalf of the Government of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I assure Himanta Biswa Sarma and all of you that there will be no shortage of relief assistance. Complete financial assistance is being extended to the state,” Nadda said.

He added that Central teams were already conducting assessments to determine the extent of damage caused by

the floods. “Central teams are assessing the scale of damage here. We are fully engaged in rehabilitation efforts,” he said.

Bihubor and Nepali Khuti are among the worst-affected localities in Sivasagar district, where floodwaters damaged houses, agricultural fields, livestock and public infrastructure. The disaster forced many families to evacuate their homes and seek refuge in relief camps and temporary shelters on higher ground.

During the visit, Nadda and Sarma met flood-affected residents and reviewed the challenges faced by families who lost homes, household belongings and means of livelihood.

The visit comes as the Assam government continues relief distribution, damage assessment and rehabilitation measures across Sivasagar and other flood-affected districts. The state has announced financial assistance for affected households, including aid for damaged homes, crop losses, livestock deaths and livelihood restoration.

The Centre’s assurance is expected to bolster ongoing rehabilitation efforts as authorities work to help flood-hit communities rebuild after one of the most destructive flood spells to affect parts of Upper Assam in recent years.

Manipur CM reviews security, civic outreach with ITBP Inspector General Clay Khongsai



IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh on Wednesday reviewed the state’s internal security scenario, law enforcement measures and civic action initiatives during a meeting with Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Inspector General Clay Khongsai at the State Secretariat in Imphal. The meeting focused on enhancing coordination between the Manipur government and the ITBP to strengthen security management while expanding public welfare initiatives across the state.

Sharing details of the meeting on social media, the Chief Minister said the discussions covered key issues relating to internal security, law enforce-

ment and civil-military civic action programmes aimed at fostering peace and stability.

Singh commended the ITBP’s contribution to maintaining public security and praised its Civic Action Programmes for promoting trust between security forces and local communities through welfare, healthcare and outreach initiatives. “The State Government remains committed to close coordination with all security agencies to ensure lasting peace, stability and public welfare,” the Chief Minister said. Khongsai, a 1996-batch IPS officer from Manipur, previously served as the state’s Additional Director General of Police before being appointed Inspector General of the ITBP by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in August 2023. The meeting comes as the state government continues to engage with central security agencies to reinforce the security framework and support confidence-building measures in Manipur.

Kohima POCSO Court sentences 66-year-old to 20 years for rape of minor

KOHIMA

A Special POCSO Court in Kohima has sentenced a 66-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a 14-year-old girl in Nagaland’s Tsemnyu district in 2019.

The convict, identified as Ngab Kent, was found guilty by Principal District and Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge (POCSO) Mezivolu T. Therieh. The court delivered its judgment on August 3 and pronounced the sentence on August 4.

In addition to the prison term, the court imposed a fine of Rs 5,000. Failure to pay the fine will result in an additional one year of simple imprisonment.

The court also directed the Nagaland government to provide Rs 1 lakh as compensation to the survivor. The Kohima District Legal Services Authority has been entrusted with facilitating and monitoring the disbursement of the compensation.

While determining the sentence, the court observed that the survivor had endured severe physical, mental and emotional trauma. It noted that her status as a child made the offence particularly grave and treated her vulnerability as a significant aggravating factor warranting a stringent sentence.

The case pertains to the rape of the minor girl in Phentejon BM village under Tsemnyu district in 2019. The conviction and sentencing were delivered under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

NH-2 blockade triggers essential commodity shortage in Imphal as supply chain falters



IMPHAL

Prolonged disruptions along National Highway-2 (NH-2), Manipur’s principal supply corridor, have triggered an acute shortage of essential commodities in Imphal, with the crisis escalating beyond rising prices to widespread scarcity as stocks in markets and retail outlets continue to decline. The blockade on the Imphal-Dimapur highway has severely disrupted the movement of goods into the state, leaving traders struggling to replenish essential supplies. Although National Highway-37, connecting Imphal with Jiribam, remains operational, its ability to meet demand has been constrained by difficult terrain, recurring landslides and extended travel time.

According to traders, trucks carrying essential commodities from outside the state are now taking between 25 days and nearly a month to reach Imphal, compared to only a few days under normal conditions. The prolonged transit

has resulted in heavy spoilage of perishable items such as fish, onions and potatoes, further aggravating shortages in local markets.

The disruption has also affected major supermarkets and wholesale outlets, many of which have reported dwindling inventories and empty shelves due to the non-arrival of fresh consignments. Traders said the shortage has become increasingly severe over the past few weeks as existing stocks continue to be exhausted. Prices of several essential commodities have also remained elevated in Imphal markets. Onions are retailing at around Rs 70 per kg, potatoes at Rs 40 per kg, garlic at approximately Rs 180 per kg, Mairongbi toor dal at Rs 140 per kg, Kangtak at Rs 75 per kg and masoor dal between Rs 90 and Rs 100 per kg. The supply crisis has been compounded by seasonal factors. Local vegetable production has declined following the end of the summer harvesting season, while winter crops are yet to reach the markets. With reduced local output and limited inflow of supplies from outside the state, the availability of fresh vegetables has dropped sharply, raising concerns that shortages could intensify in the coming weeks if normal transport operations are not restored.

Traders and consumers have expressed concern over the prolonged disruption, warning that continued blockades on NH-2 could hurt



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TALKS CAN WAIT

There is a growing chorus urging India and Pakistan to return to the negotiating table. What makes the latest appeals noteworthy is not merely their persistence but their source. Calls for renewed engagement have come not only from the familiar constituency of peace advocates but also from senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leaders, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and over a hundred prominent citizens from both sides of the border. Simultaneously, Indian and Pakistani strategic experts and former officials recently met in Colombo for another round of Track 2 discussions. Together, these developments revive an old question with renewed urgency: should India reopen formal dialogue with Pakistan?

The answer is neither an unequivocal yes nor an absolute no. It lies in making a distinction that has often been blurred in South Asian diplomacy-between political dialogue and strategic communication.

India has little reason to resume comprehensive bilateral talks under the prevailing security environment. Yet it has every reason to preserve channels of communication that reduce the risk of military escalation between two nuclear-armed neighbours. The two objectives are not only different; they are strategically complementary.

New Delhi's Pakistan policy underwent a fundamental shift after the April 2025 terrorist attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 26 civilians. India's response was swift and multidimensional. Operation Sindoor targeted terrorist infrastructure across the border, while the government placed the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance. The latter was particularly significant. For over six decades, the treaty had survived wars, diplomatic breakdowns and prolonged hostility. By suspending its implementation, India conveyed that bilateral cooperation could no longer remain insulated from Pakistan's continued support for cross-border terrorism. The message was unmistakable: there can be no business as usual while terrorism remains state policy or enjoys state protection.

Pakistan's response has done little to create conditions conducive to dialogue. Instead of treating the suspension of the treaty as a diplomatic dispute, Islamabad has increasingly elevated it into a national security issue. Army Chief General Asim Munir has warned of taking "all necessary measures" to secure Pakistan's water rights, while former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has suggested that any interference with Pakistan's share of river waters could lead to conflict. Such rhetoric transforms what was once regarded as a technical water-sharing arrangement into yet another theatre of strategic confrontation.

Compounding the problem is Pakistan's deteriorating domestic security situation. Balochistan continues to witness escalating violence from separatist groups, particularly the Baloch Liberation Army, while the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan has intensified attacks against security forces. The killing of nine policemen in Ziarat district is only the latest reminder of the state's internal vulnerabilities. As has often been the case, Pakistan has attempted to externalise these challenges by accusing India of involvement without presenting credible evidence. Meanwhile, prolonged protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir over governance failures, inflation and political discrimination underscore growing domestic unrest. A government struggling to manage internal crises is unlikely to possess either the political bandwidth or the strategic intent required for meaningful engagement with India.

India, on the other hand, has broadened its response beyond military deterrence. The National Investigation Agency's decision to file charges against Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed in connection with the Pahalgam attack reflects an effort to strengthen the legal case against cross-border terrorism. Reports that New Delhi intends to push for Pakistan's return to the Financial Action Task Force grey list by presenting fresh evidence of terrorist financing indicate a calibrated strategy that combines military, diplomatic and legal instruments. This integrated approach seeks to raise the costs of Pakistan's continued reliance on terrorist proxies while maintaining international pressure.

None of this, however, diminishes the importance of communication.

Supporters of renewed engagement often invoke former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's enduring observation that neighbours cannot be changed. The sentiment remains valid. Geography is permanent. Yet geography alone cannot create the trust necessary for successful negotiations. Political dialogue requires a minimum level of confidence that commitments will be honoured. Persistent cross-border terrorism destroys precisely that foundation.

This is why India must clearly distinguish between negotiations and communication.

Political dialogue aims to resolve disputes, improve relations and normalise ties. Strategic communication serves a far narrower but equally vital purpose: preventing crises from spiralling into military confrontation. It encompasses military hotlines, diplomatic backchannels, humanitarian contacts and carefully structured Track 2 engagements. These mechanisms do not dilute India's position on terrorism, nor do they amount to diplomatic normalisation. They simply reduce the dangers of misunderstanding, miscalculation and unintended escalation.

The recent Track 2 meeting in Colombo offers a useful illustration. Participants discussed terrorism, water-sharing, escalation management and crisis communication. No agreements were signed, nor was there any suggestion of reviving formal negotiations. Yet the discussions helped preserve channels through which concerns can be conveyed during periods of heightened tension. Such interactions are not concessions. They are safeguards.

The recent remarks by senior RSS leaders and former Army Chief General M.M. Naravane should be interpreted in the same context. They are not advocating unconditional dialogue or a return to the pre-Pahalgam status quo. Rather, they recognise a strategic reality: prolonged silence between two nuclear powers increases uncertainty and raises the possibility of dangerous miscalculations. Effective communication strengthens deterrence because it enables both sides to signal intentions, manage escalation and avoid accidental conflict.

India's policy, therefore, should remain firmly calibrated. Comprehensive political dialogue must continue to depend on verifiable, sustained and irreversible action by Pakistan against cross-border terrorism. Lowering that threshold would undermine both India's credibility and its security interests. At the same time, shutting every channel of communication would be strategically shortsighted. Military hotlines, limited diplomatic engagement on humanitarian issues and unofficial Track 2 exchanges should remain operational, not as symbols of reconciliation but as instruments of crisis management. The strategic environment of the twenty-first century leaves little room for complacency. Terrorism, drones, cyber operations, nuclear deterrence and compressed decision-making timelines have significantly increased the risks of rapid escalation. In such an environment, communication is no longer merely a diplomatic courtesy-it is an essential component of national security architecture.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Be there for others, but never leave yourself behind.

- Dodinsky

BATONS AND BARRICADES: IS THE POLICE ABOVE ACCOUNTABILITY?



POONAM I. KAUSHISH

The addiction to power is a peculiar thing. The longer a person remains in power, the more they begin to mistake courtesy and adherence to rules for patriotism, and dissent for treason. They come to believe that every slogan raised against them is an attack on the nation, every protest is part of a conspiracy, and every citizen who asks questions is an enemy.

When the Gen-Z-led Cockroach Janata Party took to the streets demanding quality education, transparency, and accountability, it was met not with dialogue but with barricades, baton charges, pellet guns, detentions, and a police force that often views protest not as a democratic right but as a law-and-order problem. At the same time, the government appeared unconvinced about the need to listen to the voices of its own citizens.

The story never changes, and the scenes are all too familiar. Citizens protest, the police crack down, the government defends the action, the internet is shut down, and an inquiry is announced. After a while, the headlines disappear, but nothing changes. The cycle repeats itself. The administration has turned this into a dangerous ritual. Whether the protesters are students, farmers, social activists, or public sector employees, the style of policing remains almost identical.

The irony is not that the police use force or that excesses sometimes occur during operations. In any democracy, the police require a certain degree of force to maintain public order. The real outrage lies in the fact that when force crosses constitutional limits, accountability vanishes completely, and no one is held responsible.

For decades, successive governments have praised the bravery of the police while avoiding any confrontation with the issue of police impunity. Every political party, while in opposition, condemns the police as an instrument of repression and demands accountability. Yet the moment it comes to power, it begins celebrating the virtues of "maintaining law and order." The result is predictable: the police cease to see citizens within a crowd and instead see only a crowd. They perceive threats instead of grievances and expect obedience before respecting constitutional rights.

Unfortunately, the police continue to function under a colonial mindset rooted in the Police Act of 1861. Enacted by the British, this law was designed not to serve citizens but to control subjects. Independent India may have replaced the Union Jack, but it never completely dismantled the oppressive institutional framework inherited from colonial rule. As a result, the baton has become the state's default instrument.

The obvious questions are these: Has any officer ever lost their job for ordering an unnecessary baton charge? How many officers have faced criminal prosecution for excessive action against peaceful protesters? How many decisions taken by senior officials have been subjected to independent review? How many victims have received compensation when the police exceeded constitutional limits? How many Home Ministers have apologized when police action violated constitutional principles? The answers reveal the distortion within the system. Almost none.

Accountability always flows downward. Constables become convenient scapegoats, while those who issue the orders remain protected. Governments deny any role. ("Ask the District Magistrate.") Senior officers defend their subordinates, and internal inquiries become exercises in institutional self-preservation.

A few months later, everyone moves on-except those left with broken bones

or shattered faith in the system. Every police officer receives one unmistakable message: the risks of using excessive force are minimal, but the risks of refusing questionable orders are enormous. That is how impunity gradually becomes institutional culture.

Despite public scrutiny, institutional accountability remains elusive. Video evidence may trigger outrage, but it rarely produces reform. The problem is not the absence of reports but the absence of political courage. Committees have submitted recommendations, experts have drafted reform blueprints, and Supreme Court judgments have repeatedly emphasized the need for police reforms, operational independence, and protection from political interference. Yet these recommendations continue to gather dust in forgotten files.

Across the states, implementation has been partial, reluctant, or merely cosmetic. Fundamentally, nothing changes because no government is willing to surrender its instruments of control. Why? Because regardless of ideology, governments find an unreformed police force politically convenient.

The central question remains: who should control the police-the state government or an independent institution? It is a difficult question, and expecting an honest answer from power-hungry politicians or expecting one ourselves-is equally difficult.

The irony is striking. Governments promise reform but refuse to relinquish control. Police reforms do not simply die; they are politically murdered and then forgotten. Every committee writes their obituary, and every government attends their funeral.

An independent and accountable police force could refuse unlawful orders and expose administrative failures instead of concealing them. A professional police service would prioritize evidence over political convenience. That is precisely what threatens every ruling establishment and why police reforms in India remain incomplete.

Is the police more a victim or more a culprit? Are politicians primarily responsible? The truth lies somewhere in between. Each serves the other's interests. Politicians want an obedient police force to implement their commands,

while the police seek political patronage for preferred postings, promotions, and protection. The result is a toxic alliance in which loyalty to the government often outweighs loyalty to the Constitution.

This pattern has continued for years. Politically insecure elites have steadily expanded police powers to reinforce their authority. Professional competence and investigative skills often matter less than loyalty to political leaders. It is therefore no surprise that large-scale transfers within police departments accompany every change of ministers. Bihar's prisons, for instance, have long been notorious for criminals voluntarily surrendering after committing offences because of the protection allegedly available through their nexus with the police.

Even more disturbing are the findings of the Status of Policing in India Report 2025. According to the report, caste, religion, and political affiliation significantly influence police perceptions and behaviour. More than 27 percent of respondents justified mob violence in cases involving sexual harassment and kidnapping, effectively legitimizing vigilantism. Regarding arrests, only 41 percent believed legal procedures were "always followed," while 21 percent stated they were followed only "sometimes" or "never."

Consider a common example. A complainant arrives at a police station to register an FIR. If the case involves politicians, wealthy individuals, or influential persons, the station officer often refuses to register the complaint, demands money, threatens the complainant, or drives them away. Women complainants have even faced harassment and rape. A recent report indicates that the conviction rate in such cases over the past decade has been barely one percent.

So how can India reform itself?

As citizens increasingly demand accountability from political leaders, it is essential to set our priorities straight. India needs a new generation of policing-professional, motivated, technologically equipped, and trained in modern methods.

The Gen-Z protests should become the catalyst for police reforms that governments have postponed for more than seven decades. India needs an indepen-



dent Police Complaints Authority with genuine powers, not a symbolic institution. Every allegation of excessive force during protests should automatically trigger an impartial and time-bound investigation by an agency independent of the police.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Public auction of 300 curated Presidential gifts! The auction starts today and will remain open for bidding until September 5, 2026. Visit <http://upahaar.rashtrapatibhavan.gov.in> to grab your favourite items. The proceeds of the auction will be used for social causes.

~ President of India

BIDDING STARTS from 5th August 2026

Fixed tenures for police officers should be guaranteed to reduce political interference. Body cameras should be mandatory for all police units deployed in crowd-control situations, and officers found guilty of misconduct should face prompt disciplinary action. When unlawful repression occurs, accountability should be fixed at the appropriate level instead of sacrificing convenient scapegoats.If excessive use of force is a systemic problem, accountability must move upward, not downward. Until that happens, every promise of reform will remain another exercise in political theatre. Governments routinely declare that no one is above the law. The real test is whether that principle also applies to those entrusted with enforcing it.

Citizens do not simply want better policing. They want policing that remembers a basic constitutional principle: the citizen is not the enemy of the state but its sovereign. The baton exists to protect that sovereignty, not suppress it.

The time has come for politicians to stop claiming that "the police acted independently." Few people believe that story anymore.

It is clear that democracy and police impunity cannot coexist. A police force that serves power before the law ultimately serves neither power nor the law. And a republic in which the baton enjoys greater freedom than the citizen is not displaying strength-it is advertising insecurity.

Remember this: a government that fears peaceful protesters eventually begins to fear its own people.

One final question demands an answer: Will the police be governed by the law of the land, or by the directives of the government?

Assam to begin flood damage assessment from Aug 9; CM says Nagaland mining issue to be raised with Centre

SIVASAGAR

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said the state government will begin assessing flood-damaged houses from August 9 to expedite relief and rehabilitation for families affected by the recent floods, while asserting that concerns over mining activities in neighbouring Nagaland would be taken up with the Centre.

Speaking during his visit to flood-hit areas in Sivasagar and Charaideo districts, Sarma said the government had spent the past two days interacting with affected residents and assuring them of timely assistance.

"We have been meeting flood victims over the last two days and assuring them of relief. From August 9, we will begin detailed measurements of damaged houses so that assistance can



be provided as quickly as possible," he said.

The Chief Minister said the district administration had already identified

nearly one lakh beneficiaries eligible for assistance and that the list prepared by deputy commissioners had been verified by the government.

"The Deputy Commissioner has already given us the names, and we have examined the list. Nearly one lakh people have already been identified for assistance," he said.

Sarma said temporary arrangements had been made for families displaced by the floods, while permanent houses for eligible beneficiaries would be constructed under the state's rehabilitation programme.

Referring to prolonged waterlogging in several areas, he attributed the slow drainage to the unusually high water level of the Brahmaputra River.

"The water is unable to flow out easily because of the high river level. We will make every effort to drain out the

water as quickly as possible," he said.

The Chief Minister also acknowledged that certain highway stretches had obstructed the natural flow of floodwater and said the state would request the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to construct additional cross-drainage structures to improve water discharge.

Addressing concerns that mining activities in neighbouring Nagaland may have aggravated flooding, Sarma said Assam had no jurisdiction over mining operations outside the state.

"I am the Chief Minister of Assam. I cannot stop mining in Nagaland. I will raise the issue with the Centre. There is no illegal mining in Assam. We need a scientific study to determine the actual cause of the problem," he said, adding that Nagaland had also suffered flood

damage.

He further said embankments would be constructed in vulnerable areas wherever land was made available by local residents, stressing that community cooperation would be crucial for long-term flood mitigation.

Responding to opposition MLA Akhil Gogoi's demand for enhanced compensation for flood victims, Sarma said the government would provide as much support as financially feasible.

"People should get more than Rs 10 lakh if possible, but we are running the government and know the financial realities," he said.

In a political jibe, the Chief Minister also criticised Gogoi over his recent visit to flood-hit areas.

"Akhil Gogoi made a reel by swimming in floodwater. The question is, whom did he rescue?" Sarma remarked.

Drugs Worth Rs 28 Crore Seized in Cachar, Three Held in Joint Operation

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR: Narcotics worth an estimated Rs 28 crore were seized and three suspected drug traffickers arrested during a joint operation carried out by the Assam Police and the Assam Rifles in Cachar district, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

According to the Chief Minister, the operation was conducted based on specific intelligence inputs. During the raid, security personnel recovered a large quantity of narcotic substances with an estimated market value of Rs 28 crore.

Three suspected drug traffickers were arrested in connection with the seizure. The identities of the accused have not yet been officially disclosed.

Chief Minister Sarma lauded the joint efforts of the Assam Police and the Assam Rifles, stating that the successful operation reflects the state's continued crackdown on the illegal drug trade.

Further investigation is underway to ascertain the source of the consignment and identify others involved in the trafficking network.



Nagaland Issues Advisory to Schools After Suspected Meningococcal Disease Case in Teen



KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

KOHIMA: The Nagaland Health and Family Welfare Department has issued an advisory to schools,

hostels and other educational institutions across the state following a suspected case of invasive meningococcal disease in a 14-year-old boy.

The department has directed school authorities and institution heads to remain vigilant and immediately report any suspected cases to the concerned health authorities. The advisory aims to ensure early detection and prevent the possible spread of the disease.

Health officials have also urged educational institutions to monitor students for symptoms, promote hygiene practices and cooperate with local health authorities in implementing preventive measures.

The department said timely reporting and prompt medical attention are crucial in controlling the spread of the infection.

Security forces recover large arms cache from Loktak Lake, renew focus on phumdias as militant hideouts

IMPHAL

Security forces on Tuesday recovered a large cache of firearms, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other war-like stores from the vicinity of Sendra Hill in Loktak Lake under Moirang Police Station in Manipur's Bishnupur district, highlighting the continued use of the lake's floating biomass formations, or phumdias, as concealed arms dumps by armed groups.

The recovery was made during an intelligence-based search operation as part of ongoing efforts to trace illegal weapons and explosives across the conflict-affected state.

In a statement, Manipur Police said the operation underscored the continued presence of illegally concealed arms and explosives in remote and difficult-to-access areas around Loktak Lake.

"The recovery highlights the continued presence of illegally concealed arms and explosives in remote and inaccessible locations, particularly around the phumdias (floating biomass formations) of Loktak Lake, which have repeatedly been used as hideouts and dumping grounds for weapons by anti-social and armed elements," the statement said.

The recovered cache included one .32 calibre pistol with a magazine, one single-barrel breech-loading (SBL) gun, one .22 bolt-action rifle, one Jefferson rifle with a magazine, nine locally manufactured CMG (carbine) firearms with magazines, two locally made MP-5 firearms with magazines, three locally made Lathode guns, two Pompei guns, six packets of improvised explosive devices, along with magazines, ammunition and other accessories.

Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India, is dotted with phumdis-floating masses of vegetation, soil and organic matter that support floating huts inhabited by sections of the local fishing community. While these floating islands are central to the livelihoods of many residents, security agencies have long identified some of the inaccessible areas as potential hideouts and weapons storage sites for insurgent groups.

The lake has featured prominently in past counter-insurgency operations. In 2009, security forces launched Operation Summer Storm, a major offensive aimed at flushing out militants reportedly using the lake's floating settlements and phumdias as bases.

Tuesday's seizure comes amid intensified intelligence-led operations across Manipur to recover illegal arms, explosives and ammu-

nition following the prolonged ethnic conflict that has left thousands of weapons looted from police armouries still unaccounted for. Police said intelligence-based search operations and area domination exercises are being carried out regularly across both the hill and valley districts to recover illegal weapons, curb militant activities and strengthen law and order.

Investigators are now examining the origin, ownership and intended use of the seized weapons and explosives, while efforts are underway to identify those responsible for concealing the cache.

Security officials said similar operations will continue in vulnerable and inaccessible locations across Manipur as part of sustained efforts to prevent violence, dismantle illegal arms networks and restore lasting peace and normalcy in the state.

GUWAHATI

The Assam government has issued a fresh notification making the constitution of School Management Committees (SMCs) mandatory in all government and provincialised lower primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary schools across the state.

The notification, issued by the Department of School Education, replaces all previous government orders and guidelines relating to School Management Committees. The revised framework has been aligned with the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Samagra Shiksha 2.0 programme.

Under the new norms, every eligible school must constitute an SMC within one month of the commencement of the academic session.

In a significant change, the government has directed that



School Management Committees be established in secondary and senior secondary schools as well, replacing the existing School Management Development Com-

mittees (SMDCs).

The revised guidelines aim to strengthen decentralised school governance by promoting greater participation of local communi-

NCHAC unveils Rs 1,232-crore Budget with focus on education, tourism and youth development

HAFLONG

The North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) on Tuesday presented a Rs 1,232-crore Budget for the 2026-27 financial year, outlining a development-oriented roadmap for Dima Hasao district with a strong focus on education, sports, youth empowerment, tourism and employee welfare.

The Council's 14th Budget was tabled during a special session at the NCHAC headquarters by Executive Member in charge of Finance Donpoin Hojai. The session, chaired by Council Chairman Mohit Hojai, saw the proposed financial plan receive unanimous approval from the members.

Presenting the Budget, Thaosen said the financial plan reflected the Council's strengthened fiscal position and enhanced discretionary powers, attributing the improved financial outlook to continued support from the Assam government.

Of the total outlay, Rs 889 crore has been earmarked under the State-Owned Priority Development (SOPD) component to meet expenditure on employee salaries, infrastructure projects and other priority development initiatives.

The Council also announced the creation of a dedicated Member of Autonomous Council (MAC) Area Development Fund with an allocation of Rs 30 crore to finance local development works across the district.

A further Rs 232 crore has been allocated under establishment expenditure to clear pending salaries and gratuity dues of Council employees, including Class I and Class II officers.

Addressing reporters after the Budget presentation, Chief Executive Member Debobol Gorlosa said the Council would utilise the allocated funds judiciously to accelerate development and improve public welfare in Dima Hasao.

He said the Council would continue efforts to strengthen its revenue base through taxation, land revenue and income generated from forest resources to support long-term financial sustainability.

Gorlosa also identified education, sports, tourism and youth empowerment as key sectors for investment, saying these would play a crucial role in driving the district's long-term socio-economic growth and creating opportunities for the younger generation.

CJP launches Assam membership drive, plans state committee with focus on students and youth

GUWAHATI

The Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) announced the launch of a membership drive in Assam and said it would soon constitute its state committee as part of efforts to expand its organisational presence, with students, youth and working-class communities at the centre of its outreach.

Addressing a press conference at the Guwahati Press Club, CJP National Media Coordinator Sheikh Sahiluddin Shah said the process of forming the Assam state committee would begin after the organisation concludes its scheduled meetings in Maharashtra and Delhi.

Shah said the party was currently consulting journalists, advocates and students to gather feedback that would help shape its future organisational strategy and policy agenda in the state.

"The purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the outcome of the earlier student movement and seek suggestions from senior journalists, advocates and students. Their feedback will help us prepare our future roadmap," he said.

According to Shah, the newly launched membership drive will form the basis for constituting the Assam unit.

Quest!

The loudest noise ever recorded was the eruption of the volcano Krakatoa in 1883. The sound traveled around the world multiple times.



"We have released membership forms, and the Assam state committee will be constituted from among those who join the organisation. Our upcoming meetings in Maharashtra and Delhi will also determine the future direction of CJP, including whether it will continue as a student-led platform or evolve into a full-fledged political party," he said.

He said while students and young people remain the organisation's primary focus, CJP also intends to engage with workers across different sectors.

"Our priority is students and youth,

but we also want to work with delivery workers and other sections of the labour force and raise issues affecting them," Shah said. He added that the organisation has so far relied largely on social media to build its support base and currently does not have a physical office in Assam. "Our outreach has primarily been through Instagram. We have not yet launched an official CJP Assam social media page. Several pages exist in our name, but they are independently run and are not affiliated with the organisation," he said.

Shah also questioned the deployment

of police personnel outside the Guwahati Press Club during the event.

"We were only addressing a press conference and not holding a protest. The heavy police presence outside the venue was therefore surprising," he said.

Referring to earlier demonstrations in Guwahati, Shah alleged that 11 individuals associated with the movement had previously been detained by police before being released following intervention by the organisation's national leadership.

Describing the movement as peaceful and democratic, Shah said he had spent nearly 37 days in Delhi participating in student-led protests and maintained that young people should have a stronger voice in public affairs.

"Our movement has always been democratic and student-centric. We believe students and youth should actively participate in raising public issues through peaceful means," he said.

He further alleged that some participants in previous protests had faced police intimidation and asserted that CJP would continue supporting students seeking to raise issues through democratic processes.

Appealing to young people across Assam to join the organisation, Shah said CJP would also continue engaging with Opposition Members of Parliament to ensure issues concerning students and youth receive attention at the national level.

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CJP rules out political role for now, says it will work as pressure group for public issues



NEW DELHI

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) will operate as a pressure group for now, founder Abhijeet Dipke said on Wednesday, as the organisation's core team met in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar to discuss issues including declining public trust in institutions, ethanol-blended fuel and unemployment.

Speaking to reporters ahead of the meeting, Dipke said India currently needed a pressure group rather than a political party. "For now, CJP will be a pressure group, as what India needs now is a pressure group," he said. CJP chief spokesperson Saurav Das said activist Sonam Wangchuk would continue to serve as the movement's mentor and that the group would

seek his advice on key issues. Das said the organisation would demand the withdrawal of FIRs registered against students who participated in recent CJP-led protests over alleged NEET paper leaks and examination irregularities. He said discussions were underway with government representatives on the matter. The CJP spokesperson also said the organisation was working to provide legal and medical assistance to protesters injured during student agitations held across the country. The core team meeting is expected to deliberate on the erosion of public trust in institutions such as the media and judiciary, along with issues like ethanol-blended fuel and rising unemployment. Dipke returned to India from the US in June to lead a campaign against alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination. The agitation saw young protesters from different parts of the country gathering in Delhi, demanding reforms in the examination system and the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The movement gained traction among Gen Z groups across the country and later spread to several cities. However, some protests turned violent, with police action reported in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bihar, where cases were registered against several student protesters.

Opposition leaders march to Parliament, demand accountability from HM Amit Shah for alleged police action on student protestors



NEW DELHI

The Opposition MPs, including Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and others, marched from the Gandhi statue at Prerna Sthal to Makar Dwar in Parliament in protest against Union Home Minister Amit Shah over 'police action' against CJP protestors on 20th July, the issue of alleged Ayodhya Ram Mandir donations embezzlement and other issues.

Meanwhile, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra demanded strict accountability from the central government over the alleged police action against the student protestors, saying that those holding public office must take full responsibility for issuing orders to use force against young citizens. Speaking to reporters, Vadra declared that India is a democratic country; "not someone's royal court," demanding to know who authorised

the use of lathi charges and pellet guns. "Those holding public office have certain responsibilities toward the people. This is a democracy, not a dictatorship; it is not someone's royal court. Therefore, if incidents have occurred, if bullets have been fired at children, pellet guns have been used, tear gas has been deployed, or lathi charges have been ordered, then someone must be held accountable. Someone must have issued those orders, and they should

take responsibility," she said. Earlier on Tuesday, both the Houses in the Parliament witnessed repeated adjournments as the Opposition demanded a statement from Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the July 20 students' protest. Opposition parties have intensified their attack on Shah over the lathi-charge and alleged use of pellet guns by Delhi Police during the July 20 protest march led by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), demanding accountability from the government and raising the issue repeatedly in Parliament. On Monday, Congress President and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge also demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah come to Parliament and present the government's position on the recent student protest crackdown and alleged "missing funds." Kharge said, "We want the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to come to the House and present their views. What do they have to say? There is the issue of the missing funds. What is their position on it?" Targeting the government over its handling of the July 20 student protest at Jantar Mantar, Kharge alleged that excessive force had been used against demonstrators. "Students were beaten, pellet guns were used, tear gas was fired, and every possible measure was taken against them. Why did this happen? For what reason? Both the Prime Minister and the Home Minister should take responsibility and make statements in the House," he said.

INTERNATIONAL

Trump says deal to reopen Strait of Hormuz could come early



CAIRO

U.S. President Donald Trump said a deal on the Strait of Hormuz could come as early as Wednesday or Thursday, while Iran and Oman inched toward an agreement to reopen the critical waterway and potentially help bring an end to the war. Trump was asked by reporters traveling with him in California about a report on the Axios news site that an announcement on the Strait of Hormuz could be made on Wednesday. "It could happen. Tomorrow or the next day," he said, speaking on Tuesday evening California time, which was already Wednesday morning in the Middle East. "A lot of progress has been made."

Oil prices eased on hopes of progress for a deal that would allow oil tankers to freely exit the Persian Gulf again and deliver crude around the world. Brent crude, the international standard, slipped by 1.2% to \$78.43 per barrel early Wednesday. The possible agreement emerging from talks between Iran and Oman calls for ships to enter the Persian Gulf through an Iranian-controlled route and exit through a route controlled by Oman, two regional officials told The Associated Press. Service fees would be charged for providing security and preserving the maritime environment, the officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations.

The Trump administration has previously ruled out any deal that would give Iran control over the strait, which was an open international waterway before the the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28. About one fifth of the world's oil and natural gas passed through the strait, but shipping through the waterway has been reduced to a trickle at best by Iran's attacks since the start of the war. In an exchange with reporters on Monday, the U.S. president reiterated his public opposition to tolls being charged in the strait. "I'm not going to let them charge," Trump said. "Anybody's going to charge, we'll charge." The regional officials said negotiations are still underway and that the final agreement could take a different form, with any deal linked to lifting the U.S. blockade on Iran's ports. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Tuesday that Tehran's talks with Oman were focused on "establishing safe inbound and outbound shipping lanes," routes that "uphold sovereign rights while also addressing the national security considerations of both Iran and Oman." "The final results of these negotiations will be announced once concluded," he added, according to Iran's state-run IRNA news agency. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed progress had been made in those talks, "but not finality yet." Rubio has previously ruled out any deal that would give Iran control over the strait, saying last month that would create a "very dangerous precedent" for other parts of the world. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told CNBC that "there is a chance we may have a deal today or tomorrow to open the strait and move towards a more normalized position in this conflict." Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, said he also spoke to Trump by phone on Tuesday as the Arab country tries to broker a resolution to the war. Al Thani's office said the two discussed ways to bridge the divide "in a way that enhances the prospects of reaching a sustainable diplomatic settlement to the crisis." Trump is under mounting pressure to end an unpopular war that has driven up gas prices ahead of midterm elections and drawn down U.S. supplies of some munitions. In recent days, he has again alternately threatened massive strikes and voiced support for diplomatic efforts. Trump said Monday that the U.S. was in talks with Iran, saying it was Tehran's "last chance" to reach a deal and avoid another U.S. military escalation. "The first phase is the opening of the straits. The second phase will be the denuclearization," Trump said. "And that will take a little while." Iran has denied it is negotiating with the U.S., saying the talks are only with Oman. An Indian-flagged commercial ship sank Tuesday in the Red Sea off Yemen after being struck by an explosive-laden boat, Yemeni and Indian authorities said. Yemen's coast guard rescued the crew, which included 13 Indians and a Yemeni. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis militants have repeatedly struck ships traversing the Red Sea near Yemen. Last month, the Houthis announced they were closing the Bab el-Mandeb Strait that leads to the Red Sea for Saudi-linked shipping in retaliation for the kingdom's blockade on Yemen and an attack on the international airport in Yemen's rebel-held capital, Sanaa. Earlier Tuesday, a cargo ship reported being "hit by an unknown projectile" while traversing the Strait of Hormuz, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Center. The center said the reported strike damaged the vessel at around 2 a.m. local time while it was about 37 kilometers (23 miles) northeast of Al Khasab, a port city in Oman. The British maritime security firm Ambrey said the ship sustained damage.

US Congressman says India's proposed FCRA changes 'target' Christians, warns on bilateral ties



WASHINGTON

India's proposed amendments to the law governing foreign funding for non-governmental organisations have drawn criticism from a US lawmaker, who claimed the changes could affect bilateral ties and amount to an attack on Christians. US Congressman Riley Moore, a Republican representing West Virginia, on Tuesday expressed concern over the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), which governs foreign donations received by NGOs, trusts, educational institutions and religious organisations. In a post on X, Moore alleged that the proposed changes would allow the Indian government to take over churches and religious charities. "Christians have been in India since St Thomas the Apostle travelled to the Malabar Coast just dec-

ades after the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. But despite this long Christian history, India's Parliament is considering amending Foreign Contribution Regulation Amendment (FCRA) rules to permit government takers of churches and religious charities," he wrote. Calling the proposal "a clear attack against Christians", Moore said, "If this bill proceeds in this way, it would be a point of major concern in our bilateral relationship with India." The remarks came in response to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, which proposes to empower the Central government to establish a Designated Authority to take over the management of foreign contributions and assets created using such funds when an organi-

sation's FCRA registration is cancelled, surrendered or lapses due to non-renewal. The proposed legislation, however, also specifies that where such assets include a place of worship, the Designated Authority must ensure that its religious character is maintained. The Bill also proposes to reduce the maximum punishment for violations of the Act from five years' imprisonment to one year. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, 13,520 organisations received foreign contributions totalling Rs 55,741 crore between 2019 and 2022. Data available on the FCRA portal shows that, as of July 15, 2026, there were 14,449 active FCRA registrations, while 22,498 registrations had been cancelled and 15,212 had lapsed due to non-renewal.

When the Rivers Changed Course: Assam's Flood Disaster Demands a New National Response

The flash floods that swept through Upper Assam in July have left behind destruction on a scale rarely witnessed in the region. Entire villages in Sivasagar, Charaideo, Sonari and adjoining areas saw homes, farmland, livestock and public infrastructure washed away within minutes. Unlike the seasonal flooding associated with the Brahmaputra, this disaster unfolded with extraordinary speed, leaving residents little or no time to evacuate or safeguard their livelihoods.

The crisis has once again exposed the vulnerability of Assam's riverine landscape in an era of changing climate patterns. It has also highlighted the need for a recovery strategy that extends beyond immediate relief and compensation. The challenge is no longer simply rebuilding damaged assets but creating communities capable of withstanding increasingly frequent and intense climate-driven disasters.

A Different Kind of Flood

Floods are an annual occurrence in Assam, but the July disaster differed significantly from the state's traditional river floods. Triggered by cloudbursts and exceptionally heavy rainfall over the Himalayan and Patkai hill catchments, massive volumes of water surged through mountain-fed rivers with unprecedented force.

Unlike conventional floods, where rising river levels often provide several hours or even days of warning, these flash floods struck almost without notice. Entire settlements were inundated within half an hour. Families were unable to evacuate, rescue livestock or protect household belongings. Crops ready for harvest disappeared overnight, while roads, bridges, embankments and public utilities suffered extensive damage.

The scale of destruction demands a fundamentally different policy response. Relief operations alone cannot address the long-term social and economic consequences of such disasters.

Understanding Assam's Changing Hydrology

Assam's geography makes it one of India's most flood-prone states. The Brahmaputra Valley is surrounded by the Eastern Himalayas, the Bhutan hills, the Patkai range and the Meghalaya Plateau, receiving runoff from numerous steep mountain catchments before water spreads across the plains.

The state's flood behaviour is shaped by several major river systems. Rivers descending from Arunachal Pradesh, Bhutan, Nagaland and the Patkai hills carry enormous quantities of water and sediment into the Brahmaputra basin. Historically, some rivers such as the Dikhow, Demow and Dhanisiri were considered relatively moderate. However, the July flash floods demonstrated that under extreme rainfall conditions, even these rivers can become highly destructive.

Climate change is making rainfall patterns more erratic, increasing the frequency of intense precipitation events. Traditional flood management strategies based on historical experience are therefore becoming inadequate. Future planning must rely on scientific risk assessments that account for changing weather patterns rather than past averages.

Rebuilding Lives, Not Just Infrastructure
The recovery process should focus on restoring both physical infrastructure and community resilience.

The immediate priority is rebuilding essential public services, including schools, healthcare facilities, Anganwadi centres and drinking water systems. These institutions form the backbone of rural communities and are critical for restoring normal life after disasters.

Agriculture requires equally urgent attention. Farmers who lost standing crops, irrigation facilities and farm equipment need quality seeds, machinery support, concessional credit and timely compensation. Reviving horticulture and homestead gardens can also improve household nutrition while providing supplementary income during the recovery period.

Livestock losses, often overlooked in disaster planning, have severely affected rural livelihoods. Permanent elevated cattle shelters and fodder storage facilities should become integral components of future disaster preparedness.

Housing reconstruction should combine speed with resilience. Bamboo-based Complete Knock Down (CKD) housing systems developed by the North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council offer an efficient option for transitional shelters while permanent homes are rebuilt.

BEYOND RELIEF: WHY UPPER ASSAM NEEDS A CLIMATE-RESILIENT RECONSTRUCTION MISSION AFTER THE JULY FLASH FLOODS





OVER 6 LAKH+ PEOPLE AFFECTED



THOUSANDS OF HOMES DAMAGED



ROADS, BRIDGES & EMBANKMENTS HIT



INTENSE RAINFALL, RISING RIVERS, CLIMATE CHANGE

RELIEF IS CRUCIAL. BUT NOT ENOUGH.

-  Recurring floods are the new normal
-  Fragile ecology and unplanned development worsen the impact
-  Communities need more than temporary aid – they need long-term security
-  Upper Assam needs structural investments, not just ex-gratia

WHAT UPPER ASSAM NEEDS NOW

-  **Resilient Infrastructure**
Elevated roads, stronger bridges, flood-resilient housing
-  **River & Watershed Management**
Desilting, embankment strengthening, wetland and forest protection
-  **Early Warning & Preparedness**
Better forecasting, real-time alerts, community drills
-  **Livelihood Restoration**
Support for farmers, small businesses, fisherfolk and artisans
-  **A Special Reconstruction Mission**
A time-bound, well-funded mission with central-state-partnership



BUILD BACK BETTER. BUILD BACK SAFER.

Upper Assam deserves more than sympathy—it deserves a forward-looking reconstruction mission that secures lives, protects livelihoods, and builds resilience for generations to come.

LET'S MOVE FROM RELIEF TO RESILIENCE. THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW.

cil offer an efficient option for transitional shelters while permanent homes are rebuilt.

Equally important is the construction of elevated multipurpose community shelters in every vulnerable village. These structures can function as schools or community centres during normal times while serving as safe evacuation shelters during emergencies.

Investing in Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

Reconstruction should not simply recreate damaged infrastructure but improve it.

Roads, bridges, culverts, embankments, power networks, drinking water systems and digital connectivity must all be redesigned to withstand increasingly severe weather events. Engineering standards should incorporate projections of future rainfall intensity rather than relying solely on historical flood records.

Such investments may initially appear expensive, but they significantly reduce recurring losses caused by repeated disasters. Building resilience into infrastructure is more cost-effective than repeatedly rebuilding after every extreme weather event.

Transparent governance will also be essential. Compensation must reach beneficiaries quickly, reconstruction projects should be monitored through social audits, and local communities should participate actively in planning and implementation. Public confidence depends not only on financial assistance but also on accountability.

Technology Must Drive Future Preparedness

Modern disaster management requires a combination of scientific forecasting and community participation.

An integrated early warning system should combine satellite imagery, Doppler weather radar, artificial intelligence, cloud modelling, automatic river gauges, real-time rainfall monitoring and drone-based reconnaissance. Community reporting networks can further strengthen local preparedness by ensuring that warnings reach vulnerable populations quickly.

Equally important is sharing hydrological information across state boundaries. Since many rivers originate in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Bhutan before entering Assam, upstream rainfall and river-flow data should be integrated into a unified forecasting platform capable of issuing village-level alerts.

Forecasting systems should also evolve beyond predicting river levels alone. They must assess the likelihood of flash floods, landslides, embankment failures and cascading disasters that often accompany extreme rainfall.

Investing in these technologies today will save lives, reduce economic losses and improve emergency response in the years ahead.

A National Challenge, Not a State Problem

Assam's flood crisis cannot be viewed solely as a state responsibility. The Brahmaputra basin is an interconnected hydrological system extending across the Eastern Himalayas and neighbouring states. Rainfall that triggers flooding often occurs far beyond Assam's borders, while the downstream impacts are borne primarily by its people.

The July flash floods reinforce the long-standing demand that Assam's recurring flood challenges receive sustained national attention. Addressing such disasters requires coordinated action involving multiple ministries, scientific institutions and disaster management agencies.

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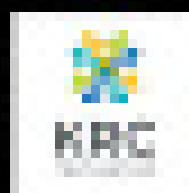


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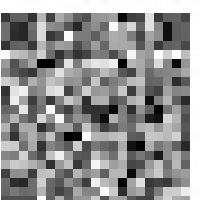


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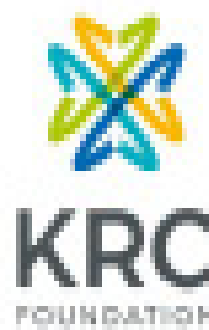
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